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SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (07/16): "Qaddoumi: Why did you choose to talk now?"

Main Stories:

Al-Ayyam and Al-Hayat Al-Jadida run front page coverage of Secretary Clinton's speech at the Council on Foreign Relations on July 15. The papers quote Clinton calling on the Arab states to start taking tangible measures towards normalizing relations with Israel. Clinton reiterated that "the Arab countries should prepare their citizens to accept peace and accept the status of Israel in the region."

All dailies lead with news on the opening of the 15th non-aligned movement (NAM) summit in Sharm Al-Sheikh on July 15. Al-Quds runs the full text of Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas's opening speech. In it, Abbas reiterated that "the Palestinians' flexibility in negotiations with Israel doesn't mean that the Palestinians will compromise on their national principles." Abbas also noted that "Israel has not shown any real cooperation until this date, but rather it continues to impose difficult conditions that are hard for Palestinians to meet." Abbas also stated that Israel's continued settlement expansion is at the core of the conflict. Al-Hayat Al-Jadida runs front page coverage of President Abbas reiterating that the Fatah Party Congress will be held on the set date of August 4, regardless of any rumors stating otherwise.

All dailies feature front page coverage of PA Prime Minister Salam Fayyad ordering PA Attorney General Ahmad Al-Mughani to file suit against the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television network after shutting down their West Bank offices on July 15 on charges of "incitement and false information." These actions were taken after the network aired recent comments by senior Fatah member Farouq Qaddoumi accusing President Abbas of involvement in a plot to kill Yasser

Arafat.

All dailies carry front page reports citing AFP on an International Monetary Fund report praising the economic reforms achieved by the PA and Prime Minister Fayyad since 2006. The report also notes that "the Palestinian economy may achieve more positive results if Israel continues to lift restrictions imposed on the Palestinian economy."

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida front page news cites Israeli army radio reporting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu intends to draft an alternative peace initiative to the one that will be presented by US President Barack Obama. Sources close to the Israeli government said that Netanyahu will try to work closely with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak when drafting this new plan.

All dailies front page reports citing Reuters on Israeli officials meeting with US advisor Fredrick Hoff to assess the possibilities of re-launching negotiations with Syria. The Israelis reiterated that in order for them to pursue negotiations with Syria, the latter has to distance itself from Iran and other Islamist movements that do not recognize Israel, according to coverage.-----

BLOCK QUOTES:

1) Regular columnist Omar Hilmi Al-Ghoul opines in Al-Hayat Al-Jadida official daily under the title, "Qaddoumi: Why didn't you present the minutes of meeting earlier?" (07/16): "If your claims
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are true [about President Abbas's involvement in a plot to kill Arafat], why did you remain silent all this time? If your claims are true, doesn't this mean that you are also a partner in the plot? Why

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did you choose to talk now? How much did the Americans and Israelis pay you to stay silent?"

2) Abdallah Awwad opines in Al-Ayyam independent daily under the title "The comprehensive war of Judaicization" (07/16): "The hunger for authority has always been a Palestinian problem. Palestinians accepted meaningless authority under the occupation while they forgot about the homeland and unity ... They allowed themselves to transform their conflict with the Israeli occupation into a bloody internal conflict that will ruin any chance to end the Jewish scheme of judaicization of Palestine through a comprehensive war against the land, the people, and their history!"

WALLES